

Message Text

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AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

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UNCLAS MEXICO 8177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: GOM POPULATION PROGRAM TAKES SHAPE

1. DOCTOR ARMANDO TORRES RAMIREZ, CHIEF OF EDUCATION AT THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH DIVISION OF THE GOM MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE FIRST OF A THREE PHASE "PUBLIC ORIENTATION" TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING ("PATERNIDAD RESPONSABLE") WILL BEGIN IN NOVEMBER 1973. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FIRST PHASE IS TO CREATE CONSCIENTIOUSNESS IN THE MOTHER. HE REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT MEXICO NEEDS TO "BREAK THE CURRENT RATE OF DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH, NOT BY COERCION BUT BY A PENETRATING PUBLIC EDUCATION THAT WOULD AT LEAST DO AWAY WITH TWO OF THE BIGGEST DEFECTS OF THE MEXICAN: DISORGANIZATION IN THE FAMILY HOME AND IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD."

2. EARLIER, A DOCTOR IN ONE OF THE CLINICS OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY DELINEATED THE POLICY TOWARD STERILIZATION. THE MINISTRY

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REPORTEDLY HAS NOT INCLUDED IT IN ITS PROGRAM OF RESPONSIBLE

PARENTHOOD. SUCH OPERATIONS, WHICH HE ESTIMATES AS APPROACHING ONE THOUSAND, HAVE TO BE PERFORMED IN PRIVATE CLINICS. HTE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S CAMPAIGN INSTEAD RECOMMENDS INTER-UTERINE DEVICES OR PILLS. HE ESTIMATES THAT THE MAJORITY OF MEXICAN WOMEN ARE NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES.

3. ON OCTOBER 29, 1973 THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE, JORGE JIMENEZ CANTU, REAFFIRMED THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GOM'S POPULATION PROGRAM BEFORE THE TWELFTH WESTERN MEDICAL ASSEMBLY IN GUADALAJARA. MEXICO CITY PRESS REPORTED HIS SAYING THAT "THE MEXICAN STATE DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE BIRTH CONTROL, BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF INSUFFICIENT ECONOMIC RESOURCES, IT WILL RECOMMEND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD TO THE PARENTS," AND THAT A PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. HE DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION AND REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE STATE WILL GRANT "ALL NECESSARY MEANS" IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.
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